



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

Office of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator
for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings

AGENDA

17th ALLIANCE AGAINST TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS Conference

Trafficking in Children and the Best Interests of the Child

Vienna, Hofburg (Neuer Saal)

3-4 April 2017

UNICEF's 2016 report on *The State of the World's Children* estimates that 5.5 million children are engaged in forced labour, with thousands more subject to abuse, forced into marriage and coerced into militias. According to the 2016 UNODC Global Report on Trafficking in Persons, approximately one in four detected trafficking victims is a child. Given these alarming figures, taking into account the United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals and in preparation of the implementation review of the UN Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons, it is critical to take a look at existing child protection systems and to promote far-reaching actions across the OSCE region and beyond.

The 17th Alliance conference will address human trafficking threats for children in crisis and the effectiveness of child protection systems to prevent and combat this crime. The conference will provide a forum for participants to analyse case studies, exchange good practices and develop integrated recommendations to adequately respond to child trafficking in a rights-based and child-friendly manner. Within the current security context, a special emphasis will be placed on children on the move, including unaccompanied minors and internally displaced children.

Aiming to strengthen measures to prevent child trafficking, protect children's rights and efficiently prosecute perpetrators, topics raised at the conference will include threats facing children in crisis situations, factors heightening child vulnerability, the adequacy of existing child protection systems, as well as policies and measures which should foster the best interests of the child. Each panel will consist of presentations followed by an interactive discussion with participants on current practices and lessons learned. The moderators and rapporteurs will collect the recommendations of each session and present them during the concluding panel discussion.

Throughout the conference, efforts will be made to further promote the full and effective implementation of relevant OSCE commitments including the 2005 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: *Addressing the special needs of child victims of trafficking for protection and assistance*, (PC.DEC/685) and the 2013 Addendum to the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings: *One Decade Later* (PC.DEC/1107/Corr.1), as well as obligations stemming from relevant United Nations and Council of Europe instruments.

Monday 3 April

13:00 - 14:30 **Registration**

14:30 - 15:30 **Opening Session**

Chair: **Madina Jarbussynova**, Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings, OSCE

Michael Linhart, Deputy Minister for Europe, Integration and Foreign Affairs, 2017 Austrian OSCE Chairmanship

Lamberto Zannier, Secretary General, OSCE

Fr. Michael Czerny S.J., Under-Secretary at Migrants & Refugees Section, Holy See

15:30 - 16:00 *Coffee Break*

16:00 - 18:00 **Panel 1 – Human Trafficking Threats for Children in Crisis**

The first panel will provide an overview of the crisis-inflicted scenarios that directly or indirectly affect children's security and welfare in the OSCE region, and highlight factors that increase children's vulnerability to falling victim to trafficking in human beings. Speakers will dwell on the most pervasive trafficking-related threats for children in crisis situations, such as forced labour, sexual exploitation, forced marriages, trafficking for organ removal, begging and coercion into criminal activities. A special emphasis will be placed on children on the move, including unaccompanied minors and internally displaced children.

Moderator: **Susanne Riegler**, ORF journalist and filmmaker, Austria

Rapporteur: **Anh Nguyen**, Head of Migrant Assistance Division, IOM

Speakers: **Kevin Hyland OBE**, Independent Anti-slavery Commissioner, UK

Federica Toscano, Project Officer, Missing Children Europe

Sarah Elliott, Division of International Protection, UNHCR

Discussion

18:00 - 20:00 *Reception*

Tuesday 4 April

09:30 – 12:30 Panel 2 – Towards Effective Child Protection Systems to Prevent and Combat Human Trafficking

This panel will look at successful and good practices of prevention of child trafficking, identification and assistance to trafficked children. It will provide examples of multi-disciplinary and interagency responses in a rights-based manner which fosters co-operation and seeks to optimize the quality of prosecution and of the treatment of the child. Panel presentations will provide a basis for discussion on the effectiveness of current child protection systems, the determination of the best interests of the child, pre-conditions for a child-friendly environment and the importance of empowering exploited children to realise their rights and access justice.

Moderator: **Thomas Wissing**, Head of the Advocacy and Partnership Unit, ILO

Rapporteur: **Ina Verzivolli**, Head of State Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights, Albania

Speakers: **Marilena Viviani**, Director, Geneva Liaison Office, UNICEF

Bragi Guðbrandsson, Director General, Government Agency for Child Protection, Iceland

Malgorzata Makarska, Judge, Vice-President of Biala Podlaska District Court, Poland

Nicola Oberzaucher, Director Programme, SOS Children's Villages International Office Region CEE/CIS

Helmut Sax, Member of the Group of Experts on Action against Trafficking in Human Beings, Council of Europe

Discussion

12:30 – 15:00 *Lunch Break*
Thematic sessions will be held between 13:30 and 15:00

15:00 - 17:15 Panel 3 – Looking Forward: Guidelines for Policy Development and Implementation

This session will present the practical recommendations collected and developed during the previous panels and thematic sessions. Panellists will offer their concluding thoughts on how States can strengthen their child protection systems and relevant policies using a rights-based approach and in the best interests of the child. Participants will be encouraged to discuss ways to better implement existing political and legal frameworks and scrutinize a possible need for more adequate and effective policies.

Moderator: **Paul Bekkers**, Director, Office of the Secretary General, OSCE

Keynote speaker: **Myria Vassiliadou**, EU Anti-trafficking Coordinator, European Commission

Speakers: **Anh Nguyen**, Head of the Migrant Assistance Division, IOM

Ina Verzivoli, Head of the State Agency for the Protection of Children's Rights, Albania

Laurent Goncalves, Co-ordinator, Regional Unit against Organized Crime in South East Europe, France

Guy Vinet, Head of the Strategic Police Matters Unit, OSCE

Vera Gracheva, Deputy Chair, Public Foundation against Digital Threats, Modern Slavery, Kidnappings and Exploitation, Russia

Discussion

17:15 - 17:30 **Closing Remarks** by Madina Jarbussynova, OSCE Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings